

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12073 010606Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BONN 12073

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR HEAD, US SALT DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SALT
SUBJECT: SALT AND GREY AREA SYSTEMS

REF: BONN 11724

1. ALTHOUGH, AS WE REPORTED IN REFTTEL, THE GERMANS HAVE NOT COMPLETED THEIR STUDY ON GRAY AREA SYSTEMS, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S POLITICAL MILITARY DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED US THAT THE FOLLOWING NOTIONS ARE BEING CONSIDERED INTER ALIA:

-- A NEW DEFINITION OF "STRATEGIC" SHOULD BE DEVELOPED, SO THAT THEATER WEAPONS AND INTERCONTINENTAL WEAPONS NO LONGER CONSTITUTE SEPARATE CLASSES OF WEAPONS. THUS, A SET OF GREY AREA LIMITATIONS SHOULD BE EASIER TO NEGOTIATE BECAUSE THE BALANCE OF GREY AREA SYSTEMS IN THE
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THEATER WOULD NOT APPEAR AS ONE-SIDED WHEN IT IS CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE GENERAL STRATEGIC BALANCE. THE GERMANS ARE ALSO THINKING OF THIS NEW DEFINITION BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE THE BRITISH AND FRENCH SYSTEMS LESS ESSENTIAL TO THE BALANCE.

-- IN ORDER TO EVEN THE BALANCE A LITTLE BIT IN EUROPE,

AND TO GIVE THE SOVIETS SOME REASON TO NEGOTIATE, THE FRG IS THINKING OF PROPOSING AN EXTENSION OF THE RANGE OF THE PERSHING MISSILES. THE GERMAN OFFICIAL SAID HE BELIEVED THE RANGE OF PERSHING COULD BE EXTENDED CONSIDERABLY BY CHANGING THE FUEL AND BY OTHER MODIFICATIONS WHICH WOULD NOT ALTER THE BASIC DESIGN.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON US-FRG CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. WE HOPE TO SEE AMBASSADOR RUTH NEXT WEEK AND ALSO FOLLOW UP WITH SEVERAL DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS.
STOESSEL

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